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Compliments of  
State Senate to Colonies

## AN ACT [proposed] ✓

To establish a State Board of Health  
for the better protection of life and  
health, and to prevent the spread of  
contagious and infectious diseases in  
this Commonwealth. ~~§~~

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint six persons, a majority of whom shall be physicians of good standing, graduates of regularly chartered and legally constituted medical colleges, and of not less than ten years' experience in the practice of their profession, and one of whom shall be a civil engineer, who, together with the secretary, the mode of whose appointment is hereinafter provided for, shall constitute and be designated as the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Of the six persons first appointed, two shall serve for two years, two for four years, and two for six years, from the first day of July next following their confirmation; and the Governor shall thereafter biennially appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, two persons of the same professions as those whose terms of office have just expired, to be members of said board, to hold their offices for six years from the first day of July next following their confirmation, and until their successors are appointed, excepting the sec-

retary, who shall continue in office as hereinafter provided; but any member may be reappointed. Any vacancy occurring in said board during a recess of the Legislature, shall be filled by the Governor until the next regular session of the same.

SECTION 2. As soon as possible after the appointment of the first six persons as aforesaid, they shall meet in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and shall proceed under the direction of the latter officer, to determine by lot which of them shall serve for the respective terms of two, four and six years. Before entering upon the duties of the office they shall take the oath prescribed for State officers by the Constitution of the State, and shall file the same in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth; who, upon receiving the said oath of office, shall issue to each a certificate of appointment for his respective term of office, determined as aforesaid; upon receiving which they shall possess and exercise the powers and perform the duties of said board, as defined in this Act. Immediately after having taken the oath of office they shall organize by electing one of their number to be president, and by appointing a proper person, who shall be a physician of good standing, of not less than ten years' professional experience, and a graduate of a legally constituted medical college, to be secretary of said board, who shall hold his appointment until removed by the appointment of his successor, or otherwise. The board may elect one of its own members secretary, in which case the vacancy thus created shall be filled by the Governor, in the same manner as a vacancy caused in any other way. The president shall be elected annually. No member of the board, except the secretary, shall, as such, receive any salary, but the actual travelling and other expenses of any member while engaged on the actual duties of the board, shall be allowed and paid on presentation of an itemized account with vouchers annexed.

SECTION 3. The secretary shall be the executive officer of the board, and shall have all the powers and privileges of a member of said board except in regard to voting upon matters relating to his own office and duties as secretary. He shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars, which shall be paid him in the same manner that salaries of other State officers are paid; and such necessary expenses as the Auditor General shall audit, on presentation of an itemized account, with vouchers annexed, and the certificate of the board, shall be allowed him.

SECTION 4. The said board shall meet at least once every six months, and may also hold special meetings as frequently as the proper and efficient discharge of its duties shall require, in the Capitol building at Harrisburg (unless otherwise ordered), and the rules or by-laws of the board shall provide for the giving of proper and timely notice of all such meetings to every member of the board. The Secretary of Internal Affairs shall provide and furnish such apartments and stationery as said board may require in the discharge of its duties. A majority of the members of the board shall at any regular, called, or adjourned meeting, organize and constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 5. The State Board of Health and Vital Statistics shall have the general supervision of the interests of the health and lives of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and shall especially study its vital statistics. It shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting the causes of disease, and especially of epidemic diseases, including those of domestic animals, the sources, mortality, and the effects of localities, employments, conditions, habits, food, beverages, and medicines on the health of the people. It shall disseminate information upon these and similar subjects among the people. It shall, when required by the Governor or the Legislature, and at such other times as it deems it important, institute sanitary inspections of public

institutions or places throughout the State. It shall codify and suggest amendments to the Sanitary Laws of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics, to have the general supervision of the State system of registration of births, marriages, and deaths, of prevalent diseases, and of practitioners of medicine and surgery; to prepare the necessary methods, forms, and blanks, for obtaining and preserving such records, and to insure the faithful registration of the same in the several counties and in the Central Bureau of Vital Statistics at the capital of the State. The said board shall recommend such forms and amendments of laws as shall be deemed to be necessary for the thorough organization and efficiency of the registration of vital statistics throughout the State. The Secretary of the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics shall be the superintendent of registration of vital statistics as supervised by said board; the clerical duties and safe keeping of the bureau of vital statistics thus created, shall be provided for by the Secretary of Internal Affairs, who shall also provide and furnish such apartments and stationery, as said board shall require in the discharge of such duties.

SECTION 7. It shall be the duty of all health officers and boards of health in the State, to communicate to said State Board of Health, copies of all their reports and publications, and also such sanitary information as may be requested by said board. And said board is authorized to require reports and information (at such times, and of such facts, and generally of such nature and extent as its by-laws or rules may provide), from all public dispensaries, hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, prisons, and schools, and from the managers, principals, and officers thereof, and from all other public institutions, their officers, and managers, and from the proprietors, managers, lessees, and occupants of all places of public resort in the State; but such reports shall only be required concerning matters, or particulars, in respect of

which, it may in its opinion need information for the proper discharge of its duties.

SECTION 8. Said board may, from time to time, engage suitable persons to render sanitary service, or to make, or supervise practical and scientific investigations and examinations requiring expert skill, and to prepare plans and reports relative thereto. But no more than two thousand dollars shall be expended in any one year for such special sanitary service.

SECTION 9. It shall be the duty of said board, on or before the first Monday of December, in each year, to make a report in writing, to the Governor of this State, upon the sanitary condition and prospects of the State; and such report shall set forth the action of the said board and of its officers and agents, and the names thereof for the past year, and may contain other useful information pertinent to the objects for which it was created, and shall suggest any further legislative action, or precaution, deemed proper for the better protection of life and health; and the annual report of said board shall also contain a detailed statement of the State Treasurer of all money paid out by, or on account of said board, and a detailed statement of the manner of its expenditure during the year last past, but its total expenditure shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars in any one year.

SECTION 10. The sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) is hereby appropriated from the treasury for the purposes of this act, and the expenditures properly incurred by the authority of said board, and verified by affidavit, subject, however, to the limitations hereinbefore imposed, and shall be paid by the Treasurer upon the warrant of the Auditor General.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect immediately, and all acts, or parts of acts, inconsistent herewith, shall be, and are hereby repealed.





